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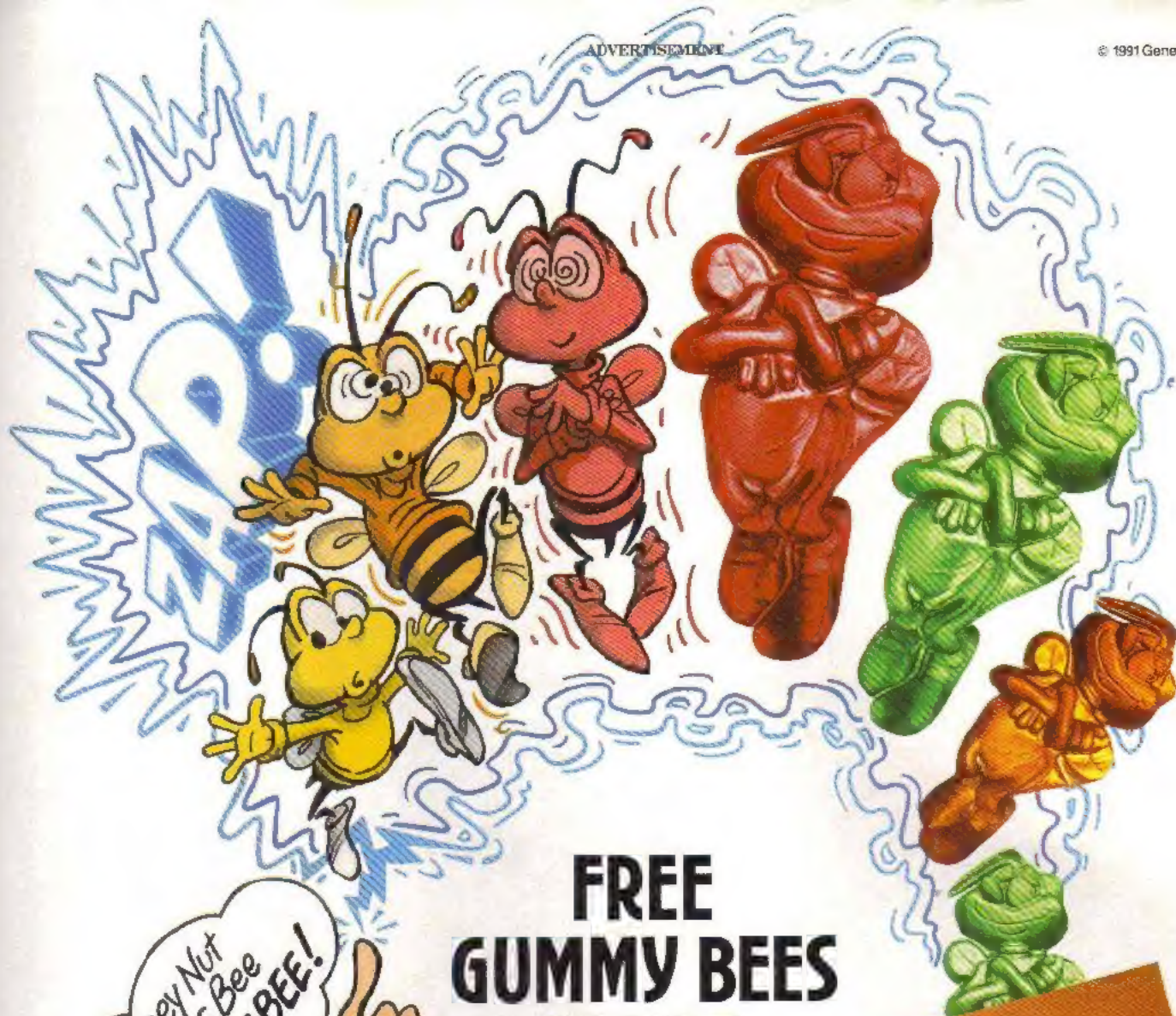
MARCH 1991

Land of the Lizards

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Growing Safer Gardens
Flying Cars!
The Time Team

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ON OUR COVER

A lend iguana—a type of
lizard—prowls the Galapagos
Islands. Photo © Michael &
Barbara Reed/ANIMALS ANIMALS

Tern Around

Hunters often use wooden decoys to attract birds they want to shoot. But a group of wooden decoys on Seal Island in Maine may help the birds *they* attract to survive.

Over the past 50 years, more than half of the Arctic tern population in Maine has disappeared. Large birds have taken over the best nesting places, forcing the terns to squeeze onto fewer and fewer islands. But overcrowding makes the terns even easier targets for diseases and predators. So biologist Stephen Kress is trying to lure back the seabirds to their old nesting areas.

Kress has placed 50 wooden decoys on Seal Island, where

terns haven't nested for 35 years. He also added sound. "I thought if we could create the sights and sounds of a large, noisy colony," says Kress, "terns

might land and look around."

When the recorded screeches were played, terns did land—and took off once they discovered they had been tricked. But last year, the terns stopped leaving. There are now 17 pairs of breeding terns and at least 17 chicks on the island. Maybe the decoys really are... um... for the birds!

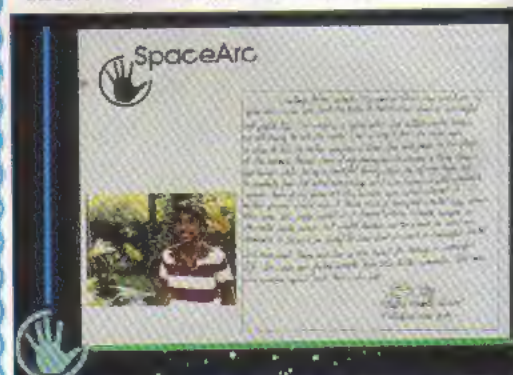
PHOTO © STEPHEN KRESS



The Launch Bunch

Want an excuse for not handing in your homework? How about this one: It got launched into space. Too far out? Not anymore. That's because everything from stories and songs to artwork from U.S. and Soviet classrooms *will* soon be launched into space.

The Space Arc project is putting together a huge "book" of kids' wishes, thoughts and ideas. The collection will be



transferred to laser discs. Then they'll be placed aboard a spacecraft that will blast off in 1992 to honor the International Space Year.

The possibility of another life-form discovering—let alone reading—the discs is pretty slim. But the project may be more useful on Earth, anyway.

All the Space Arc discs will be stored in computer systems at museums around the U.S. "The idea is to go into a museum in the year 2049 and see what people's thoughts were about life on Earth in 1990," says Jim Ferren, Space Arc project director. "Better yet, you'll be able to share them with your grandchildren!"



mice were half the normal size!

Weird science? Maybe so. But the scientists hope to use the knowledge they gained from the experiment to figure out how they can control the growth of animals.

For example, they may be able to develop drugs to prevent a rare condition in which the body grows too large.

Another possibility, the scientists say, could be to develop smaller research animals that would eat less food and take up less space, but still reproduce a normal number of offspring.

So what seemed like a "mini-disaster" may actually be a major breakthrough in science. Says John Kopchick, one of the biologists, "Often in science, you get what you don't expect."

Mini-Mouse

What do you get when you try to raise extra-large "supermice"? The answer: A mice surprise.

Two Ohio University scientists tried to produce a strain of mice twice as large as normal—but their experiment backfired. Instead of getting twice as big, the

Sweet Cure

Start making room in your medicine cabinet for a jar of honey. Why? Because some scientists

think honey may be a sweet treatment for healing wounds.

For decades, doctors doubted that honey had any healing power. But after reviewing past medical research, Alimuddin Zumla, a doctor in England, now says honey may be useful in treating some conditions.

Dr. Zumla began his research after watching African doctors

use a honey solution to treat an eye disease—and it worked! Later he found studies showing honey kills certain bacteria.

According to research, the sweet stuff also speeds up the healing of surgical wounds, skin ulcers and burns. "Honey is extremely thick, which allows it to absorb water from swollen tissue," says Zumla. "It also helps clean the wound and protect it from further infection. So it's time the medical world gives honey its proper recognition." (But until more scientists prove honey is a sticky solution, don't use it on any cuts.)

What a Card!

There's something in the cards for former NFL quarterback Jim Plunkett. This sports star is the first to be featured on a Braille sports card for the blind. Plunkett was chosen because of his work with the blind.

The front of the Action Packed football card has a raised picture of Plunkett. What does the Braille caption on the flip side say? "Raiders win Super Bowl XV—Jim Plunkett named Most Valuable Player."



So What's New?

You tell us and you'll get a nifty CONTACT T-shirt—if we print your story. Send us any science story from the news that you think our readers would like to know about. (Be sure to tell us your T-shirt size and where you heard the story.)

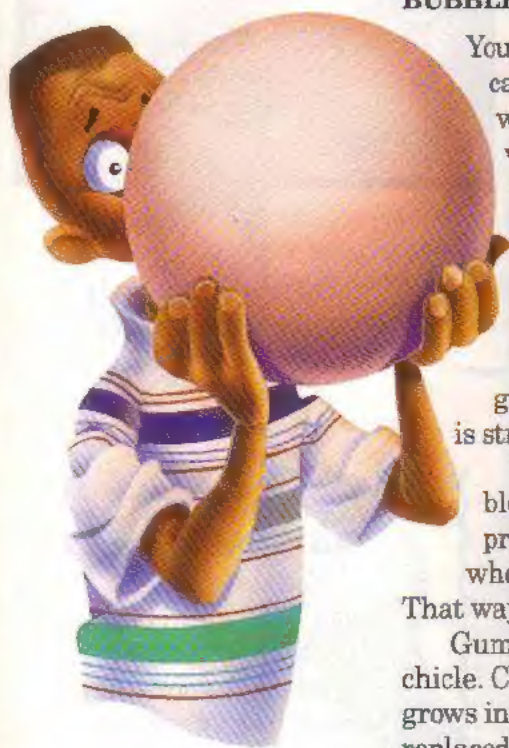
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ANY QUESTIONS?

By Diana Fisher

WHAT

MAKES THE BUBBLES IN BUBBLE GUM?



You may have noticed that you can make much bigger bubbles with bubble gum than you can with regular chewing gum. Chewing gum is chewy because of gum base, a rubber-like material. The only difference between bubble gum and chewing gum is in their gum bases. Bubble gum's base stretches more and is stronger for bubble blowing.

The gum base used for bubble gum has a special chemical property that makes it elastic when it mixes with your saliva. That way you can blow big bubbles. Gum base was first made from chicle. Chicle comes from a tree that grows in Mexico. But chicle is being replaced by artificial ingredients, such as non-poisonous plastics and rubber.

Sugarless gum can make bubbles, too. They may not be as big as sugary bubble gum bubbles. But, there is one BIG plus: You can blow away and not worry about tooth decay!

Question sent in by Greg Kauffman, Hutchinson, KS.

WHY

DO YOU GET CANKER SORES?

Canker sores are painful little sores that appear in your mouth. They are caused by a certain virus that many people have.

A virus is a very small germ that lives in a person's body. Viruses grow and multiply only when they are inside living cells of animals, plants or bacteria. The virus may be swallowed or breathed in, or enter through an opening in the skin.

The virus is always in your mouth. At certain times it will act up and start to attack your body. Stress, poor eating habits or lack of sleep can make the virus pop to the surface.

Canker sores grow and spread on your tongue or in your mouth until your body fights off the virus. It takes up to 10 days for a canker sore to go away.

What can you do to make it heal faster? Try a raisin! Split open a raisin and rub the "insides" on your sore. A raisin has vitamin E, which can help get rid of the virus.

Question sent in by Wendy Devers, Scottsboro, AL.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY VAL ERIE MARSH, A

HOW

DOES A WORM MOVE?

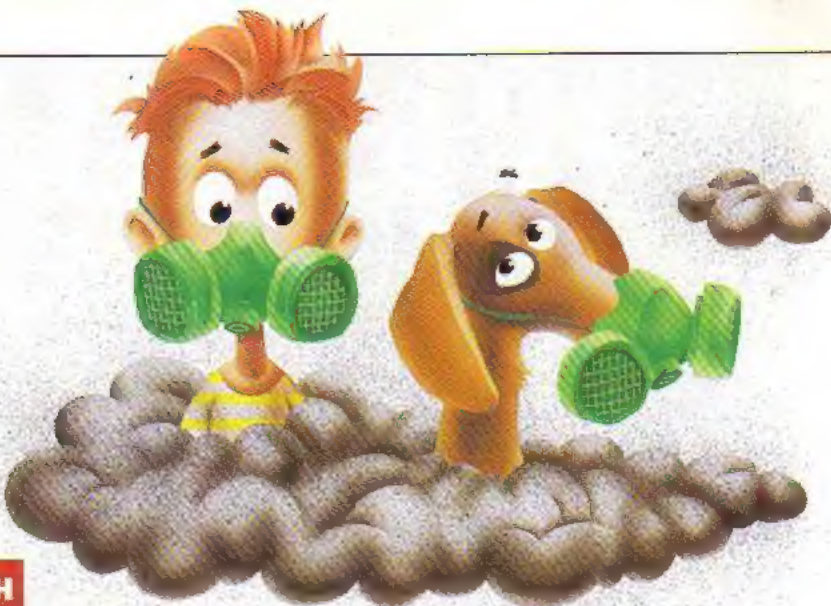
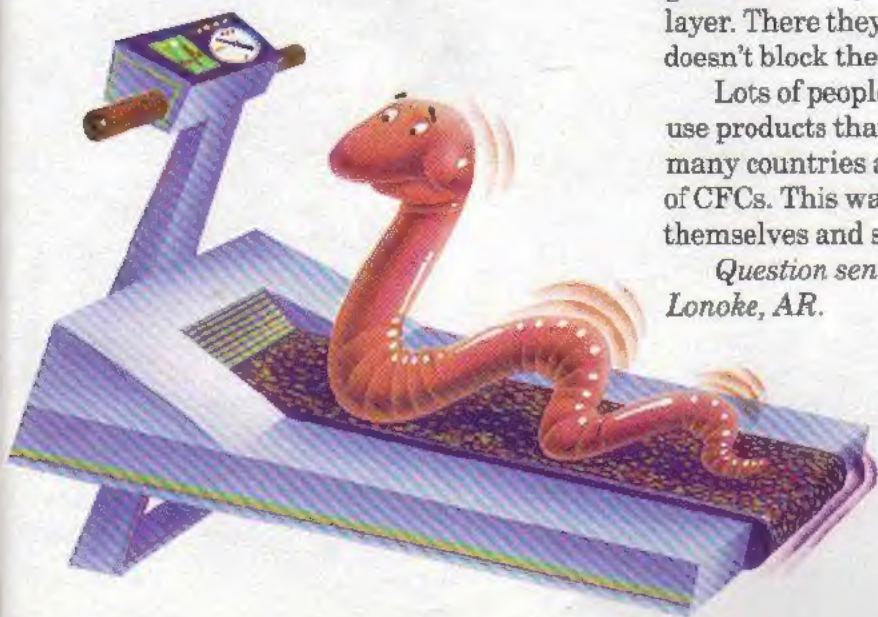
Very slowly! Actually, a worm's body is made of small, connected parts, or segments. There is a muscle in each segment. A worm moves along using two sets of muscles.

The muscles can make the segment either short and fat or long and thin. One set of muscles runs around the worm's width. When these muscles tighten, the body becomes longer and thinner. This makes the front end push forward.

The second set of muscles runs lengthwise along the body. When these segment muscles tighten, the body becomes shorter and fatter.

If you watch a worm move, you may notice that it has tiny bristles that help it tunnel into the ground. On each segment are four pairs of bristles. As each segment shortens, its bristles grip the sides of the tunnel. This allows the lengthened segments in front to "worm" in even farther.

Question sent in by Evan Labuzetta, Rochester, NY.



HOW

DOES POLLUTION AFFECT THE OZONE LAYER?

The ozone layer is a layer of air high up in the Earth's atmosphere. It contains ozone, a gas that filters out harmful rays of the sun. Without enough ozone to protect us, all living things would suffer.

Of course no one would want to harm the ozone layer. But people have by accident produced certain chemicals that have hurt it.

For example, people are adding chlorofluorocarbons (say: KLOOR-oh-FLOOR-oh-carbons), or CFCs, to the atmosphere. Air conditioners and refrigerators use CFCs to help cool things down. They're in fire extinguishers and some aerosol sprays. CFCs are even used in making some fast-food containers. When the CFCs get into the air, they reach the ozone layer. There they affect the ozone so it doesn't block the harmful sun's rays.

Lots of people are now refusing to use products that contain CFCs. And many countries are outlawing the use of CFCs. This way, people can protect themselves and save the environment.

Question sent in by Joseph Smith, Lonoke, AR.

Do you have a question
that no one seems able to answer?
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Tracking Bigfoot

**IS A
MYSTERIOUS
CREATURE
OUT THERE?**

By Russell Ginns
and Michael Rozek



It was a chilly October night. A family was driving along a lonely mountain road in northern Oregon. Suddenly, they saw a nine-foot-tall, hairy figure moving swiftly along the roadside. It was caught in the headlights of their car as they passed. But they were too scared to turn around and investigate.

When they returned to the spot the following day, they discovered a trail of huge footprints in the soft muddy ground. Each five-toed print was over 15 inches long!

Every year, sightings of a "hairy monster" are reported to police departments and newspapers across the U.S.

Sometimes the beast is called "Sasquatch." Other times, "Mo-Mo." But most people call this mysterious monster "Bigfoot." And even though no one has collected a single piece of solid evidence to prove it, there are many people who believe that, somewhere, a giant creature is waiting to be discovered.

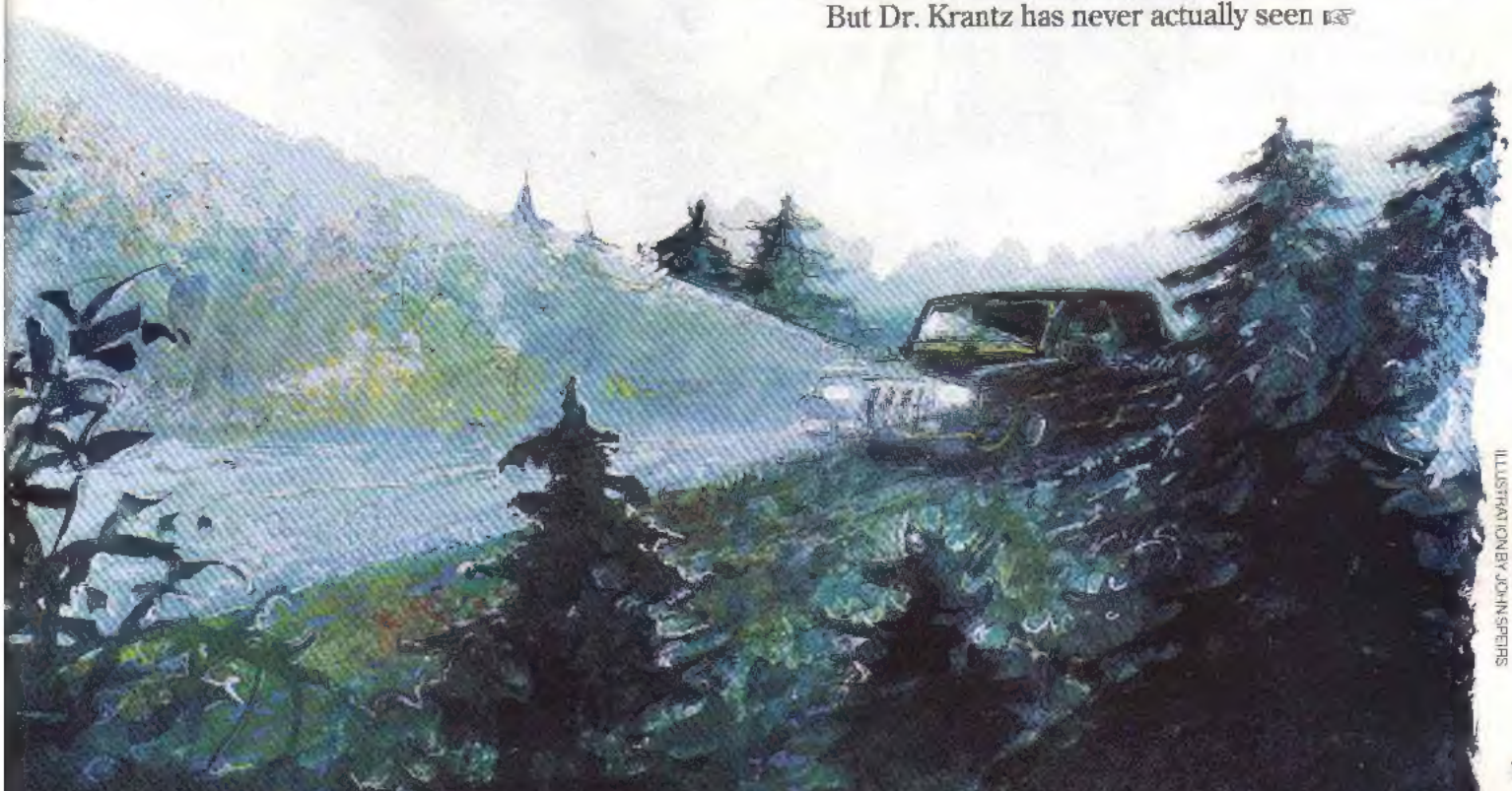
"I'm satisfied that Bigfoot exists," says Dr. Grover Krantz, a professor of anthropology at Washington State University. "I think it's a new species of ape or primate that stands upright and walks like humans do."

Dr. Krantz has been searching for Bigfoot for more than 20 years. He has investigated several thousand sightings, dating all the way back to the early 1800's. He has even interviewed 70 people who claim to have seen Bigfoot themselves. "I really do believe that over half of them really did see the creature," says Krantz.

Putting together all of the reports, Dr. Krantz thinks he has a good idea of what the creature looks like. According to him, a full-grown Sasquatch "is about eight feet tall and weighs from 500 to 800 pounds. Both males and females are covered with dark brown hair, have big shoulders and arms, and have gorilla-like faces.

"It seems to like forest regions," he adds. "And it avoids areas where there are people." Krantz also believes that the creatures are mostly active in the night, sleeping through most of the day.

But Dr. Krantz has never actually seen



Bigfoot. Nor has he been able to gather any solid evidence, such as a fossil, some fur or an actual Bigfoot skull. That's why so many other scientists are not convinced.

"Bigfoot stories are always floating around," says Sydney Anderson, a curator at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

"I always say 'bring me one, and I'll tell you what I think.'" But so far, no one has been able to do that. Over the years people have brought in photographs of all types. "They usually turn out to be a picture of a bear's skull or blurry photos that don't look like much of anything," Anderson told CONTACT. "A lot of times, I can tell that people are just pulling my leg," he adds.

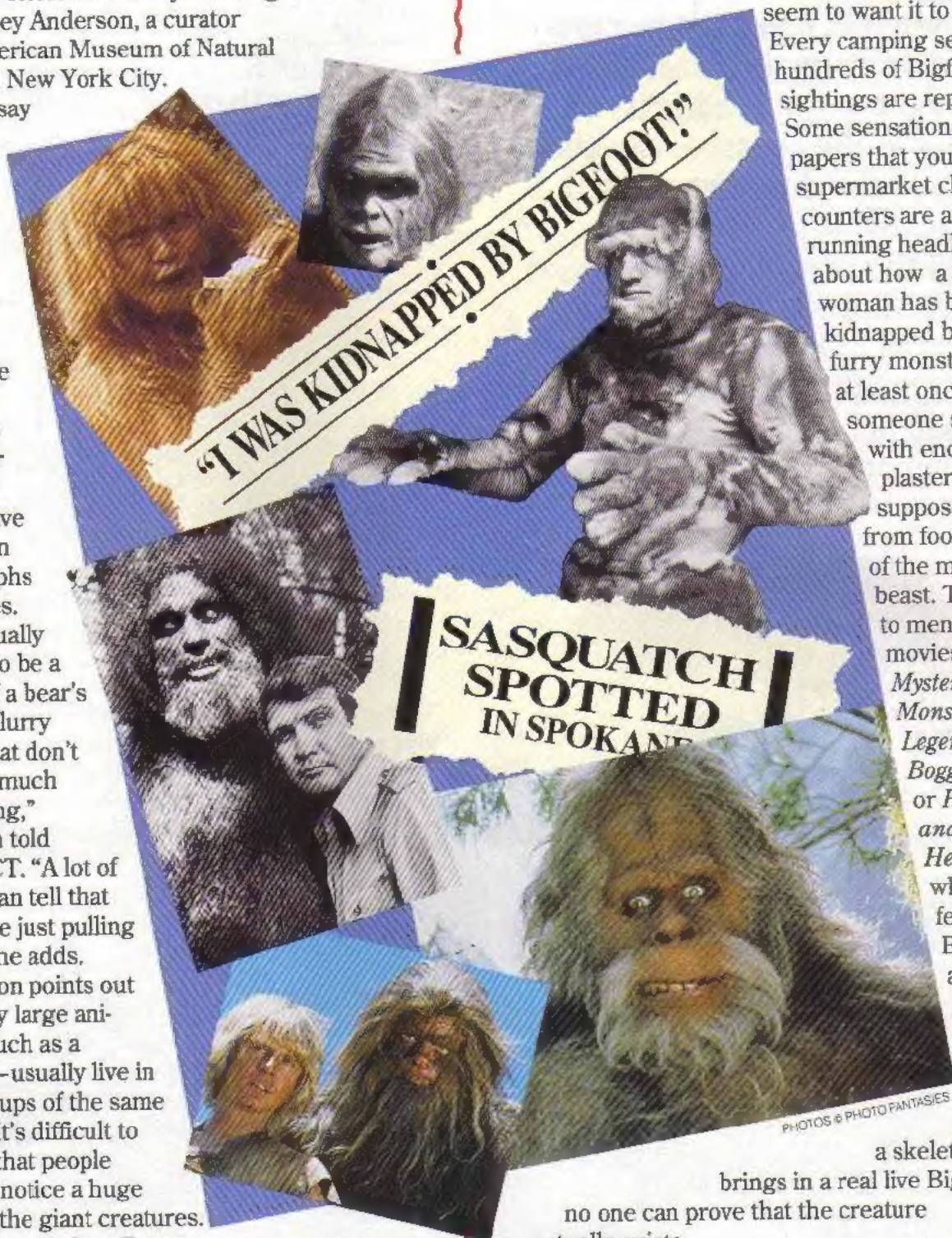
Anderson points out that really large animals—such as a Bigfoot—usually live in large groups of the same species. It's difficult to imagine that people wouldn't notice a huge group of the giant creatures.

Scientists, such as Dean Saitta, from the University of Denver, also doubt that such an animal could exist. "Many of the sightings take place in the Pacific Northwest," he says. "But a lot of us don't feel the ecology there could support an

ape-like animal." It's too cold, and the plants that grow there aren't the right kind of food for giant apes.

Whether or not a giant hairy monster is really out there, millions of people seem to want it to exist. Every camping season, hundreds of Bigfoot sightings are reported. Some sensational newspapers that you find at supermarket checkout counters are always running headlines about how a man or woman has been kidnapped by furry monsters. And, at least once a year, someone shows up with enormous plaster casts that supposedly came from footprints of the mysterious beast. This is not to mention movies, such as *Mysterious Monsters*, *The Legend of Boggy Creek* or *Harry and the Hendersons*, which feature Bigfoot in a starring role. But until someone finds a fossil or a skeleton or brings in a real live Bigfoot, no one can prove that the creature actually exists.

But people like Professor Krantz keep searching—and hoping. "If only a live Sasquatch were discovered," he chuckles, "a lot of people would be embarrassed because they would have missed a very big animal right under their noses." ♦



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TREASURED

Radical!" "Totally awesome!"

That's how Scott and David Littlefield, 10 and 12, and their 11-year-old cousin Jesse Robbins described their trip to the Galapagos (say ga-LAH-puh-gose) Islands. Located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador (a country in South America), the Galapagos is a chain of islands that stretches across about 1,000 miles of the Pacific Ocean.

Traveling with their grandparents and parents, the boys flew from San Francisco to Miami, then on to Quito, the capital of Ecuador. Finally, several days later, they flew to the island of Santa Cruz to meet the sailboat *Resting Cloud*.

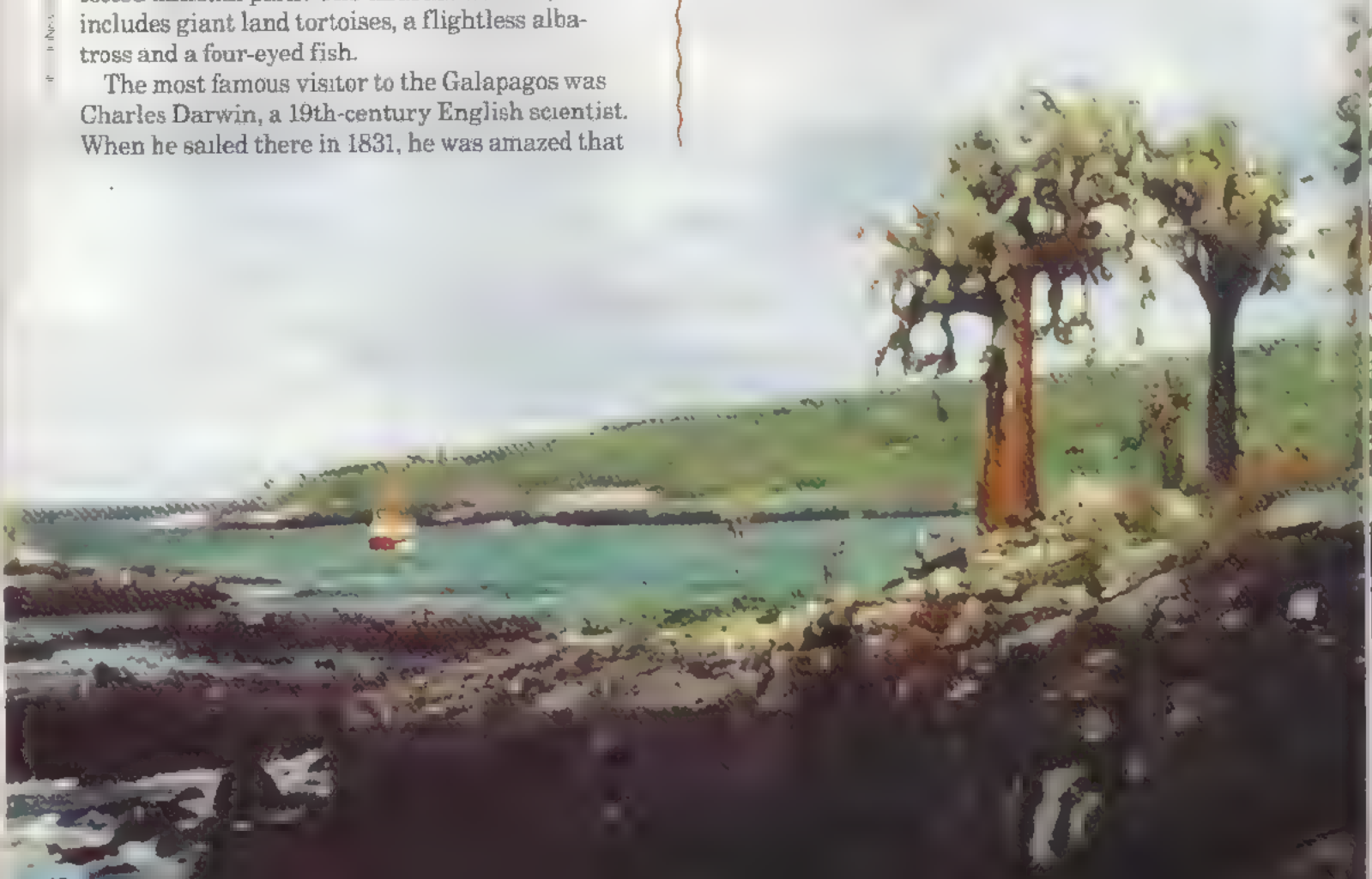
The Galapagos have always attracted visitors. In the 16th century, Spanish explorers stopped off there. Later, whalers used the islands, as well as pirates looking for a hideout. No buccaneers dock there anymore—but plenty of tourists and scientists do. What brings them to this carefully protected national park? The unusual wildlife, which includes giant land tortoises, a flightless albatross and a four-eyed fish.

The most famous visitor to the Galapagos was Charles Darwin, a 19th-century English scientist. When he sailed there in 1831, he was amazed that

there were so many different types, or species, of finches. These birds not only differed from finches on the South American mainland, where they originally came from, but from island to island—and even on opposite sides of the same island. Why?

Darwin thought up a theory to explain it. It's called "natural selection." It sounds hard but it's pretty simple: Sometimes an animal (or an insect or a plant or any living thing) faces changes in its environment. Sometimes the climate gets hotter or colder. Or food and water becomes more scarce. Or maybe a new predator shows up. Some species aren't equipped to survive the change. They eventually die out (like the dinosaurs, for instance).

But other members of that species might have a certain trait that allows them to survive (for example, green colors that offer camouflage from enemies or fur that brings warmth). These lucky creatures produce offspring with the same trait,



ISLANDS

Three Kids Explore the Galapagos

By [illegible]



who produce new offspring with small bills, and so on and so on. Pretty soon, a few species have been formed, with every member having that life-saving trait. This process is called "the survival of the fittest."

That's what happened in the Galapagos. Birds like the finches, and other animals that flew or swam or drifted to the Galapagos had to adjust to survive the difficult living conditions there. For example, reptiles called iguanas floated on logs to

the Galapagos from South America. There isn't much food and water on the islands — two new iguana species developed, each feeding on things iguanas don't ordinarily eat: land iguanas on fruit and cacti, and marine iguanas on seaweed!

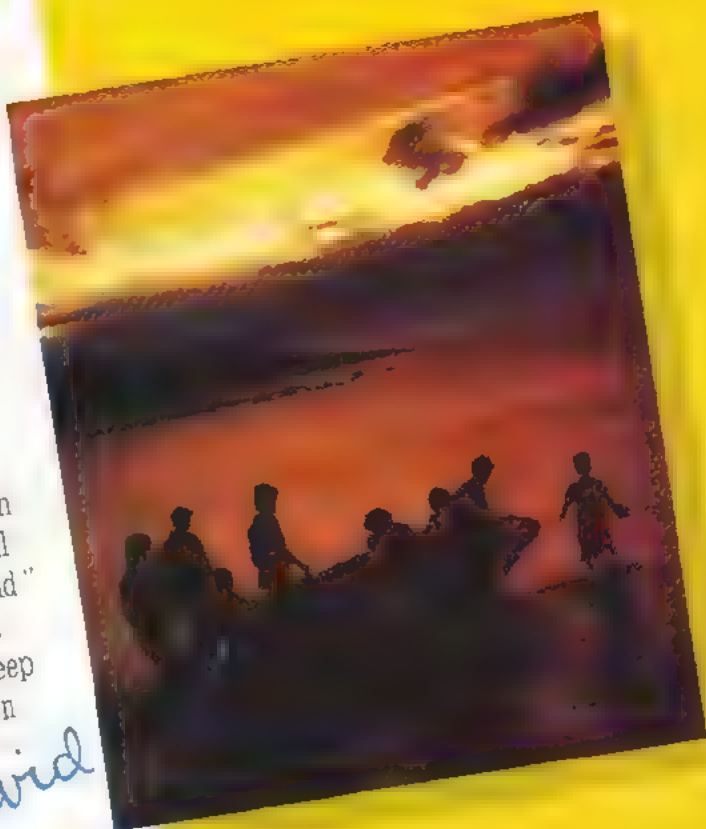
And that's why the boys traveled to the Galapagos. To see natural selection at work firsthand. Following in Darwin's footsteps, they recorded their adventures in photos and diaries — and what they saw on their incredible vacation.

We set sail
from
Floreana island.

Before shoving off from Post Office Bay at sunset we left postcards in a mail barrel. They were picked up and delivered home by passing boats—the same way whalers sent their mail 100 years ago

Life at sea on the Resting Cloud was both exciting and peaceful. We shared five small cabins, each with a tiny bathroom or “head” and ate our meals in the main cabin. Most days we were up at dawn and went to sleep at nine—except when we sat on the stern star gazing or watching glow-in-the-dark fish swim alongside.

David



We found tortoises
in the wild.

Searching for Galapagos tortoises on Isabela, we climbed six hours in the heat to the top of Alcedo volcano (It hasn't erupted in a long time, so we weren't too worried!) My first big hike was hard, steep and frustrating. I fell all the time. I drank gallons of water—since there isn't any fresh water on any of the islands, we each had to carry it with us. By the time we got to our campsite at the rim of the crater, we were total dustballs.

Everything here—the hardened lava and fog-covered forest—seemed kind of prehistoric. It was pretty amazing looking down at how far we'd come and watching hundreds of these huge old tortoises munching leaves or lying around in the mud.

Jesse

These guys are always feeling blue.

We spent a lot of time on our trip watching how birds behaved. The animals and birds were very tame. because in the Galapagos humans don't hunt them. They were as curious about us as we were about them. Blue-footed boobies are really funny. The males attract females by parading around, showing off their brightly colored feet, pointing their beaks at the sky and honking.

Scott



Here I am on the island of Fernandina.

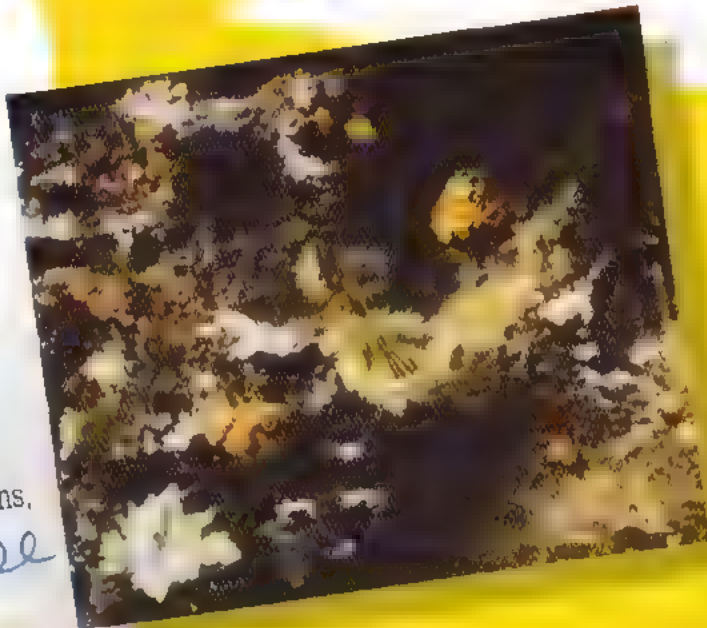
Marine iguanas nest in this spot, and it was strange to hear them sneezing salt water out of their noses. These are the only iguanas in the world that swim. To survive, they have developed skin color that blends in with the lava. And their flat noses allow them to chew algae off the underwater rocks. The iguanas are so ugly, they're almost cute.

Jesse

Seeing underwater life was neat.

"Darwin's Toilet" is a series of underwater caves and lava tubes on the island of Santiago. At high tide water rushes up the "toilet" and can throw you into the air! Trying to dive and swim through it was a major sports challenge. It was filled with amazing sea life. The color and shape of barnacles, sea urchins, starfish and sea anemones were really interesting.

Jesse



The great frigate
is one
strange bird!

Great frigate birds are sometimes called the 'buccaneers of the sea' because they steal food and nesting material. The males have big red pouches they inflate to attract females. The chicks are fed and protected by their parents for two years.

Scott



yikes!
a dead bird!

Peter Hamson one of our guides, liked to use carcasses we found on our walks to explain the differences in types of birds and animals. Some things get killed by dogs, goats, pigs and mules that escaped from or were put ashore by visitors to the Galapagos. These wild animals now threaten their less-strong victims with extinction.

Scott

We spotted
a lot of
rare penguins.

Most people wouldn't think these Galapagos penguins could live in the heat near the equator. But the cold currents that run around the islands make them feel comfortable. The penguins sometimes compete for fish with dive-bombing pelicans. To beat them to the fish, the penguins zip through the water like black and white bullets.

David



That's our
buddy the sea lion.

Swimming with the sea lions every day was a great experience. At first, it was weird and a little scary when they zoomed towards me looking like speeding torpedoes. They licked my face mask and did underwater acrobatics and nibbled at my toes. But then I realized they were a lot like human kids fooling around.

Jesse

It was so much fun to watch the sea lions' tricks and how they tried to get us to imitate them.

David

The bull sea lions are in charge of the herd. It's a bull's job to stay behind and guard everybody while females go out to hunt. I know this first hand because one day a bull on guard chased me away from the beach. I definitely didn't want to be his dinner!

Scott



PHOTOGRAPH BY JESSIE

We
loved steering the
Resting Cloud.

I'd never been on a sailboat like this. I didn't like getting seasick and having to miss a lot of dinners, but I did like getting a chance to steer the boat and to learn about radar.

David

I was happy to go home, but sad to leave. I'd learned a lot like how important it is to protect places like this. And what conservation is about, and how sometimes, like climbing the volcano, you have to work hard to get something good, like seeing tortoises up close. ♦

Jesse





GOTCHA!

swallows up harmful bacteria.
This picture has been magnified 4,000

in a laboratory dish until the
picture was taken. The
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CLEAN ACRES



Leigh-Leigh Bradford is a 10-year-old girl who grows her own corn, string beans, tomatoes, pumpkins, peas and radishes. She also grows flowers called zinnias, and 10-foot-tall sunflowers.

Not bad for an amateur gardener! But what makes Leigh-Leigh's garden really special is that it is organic. "It's a way to plant vegetables without using chemicals," says Leigh-Leigh.

Maybe you've seen the word "organic" on products sold in supermarkets or health food stores. Although each state has different rules about what foods can be labeled organic, Leigh-Leigh's definition is pretty accurate. Generally it means that the food

has been

grown without chemicals in the soil or on the plants. Congress is now trying to come up with one definition that all states agree on.

Leigh-Leigh's grandfather, Lee Fryer, who lives outside Wheaton, MD, taught her how to plant an organic garden. He has written many books about the subject, including one he wrote with Leigh-Leigh, titled *A Child's Organic Garden*.

Leigh-Leigh and her grandfather believe that food grown without chemicals is more healthful, and a lot of people agree.

But not everyone.

Nearly all the food we buy in the stores has been grown using chemicals. Why?

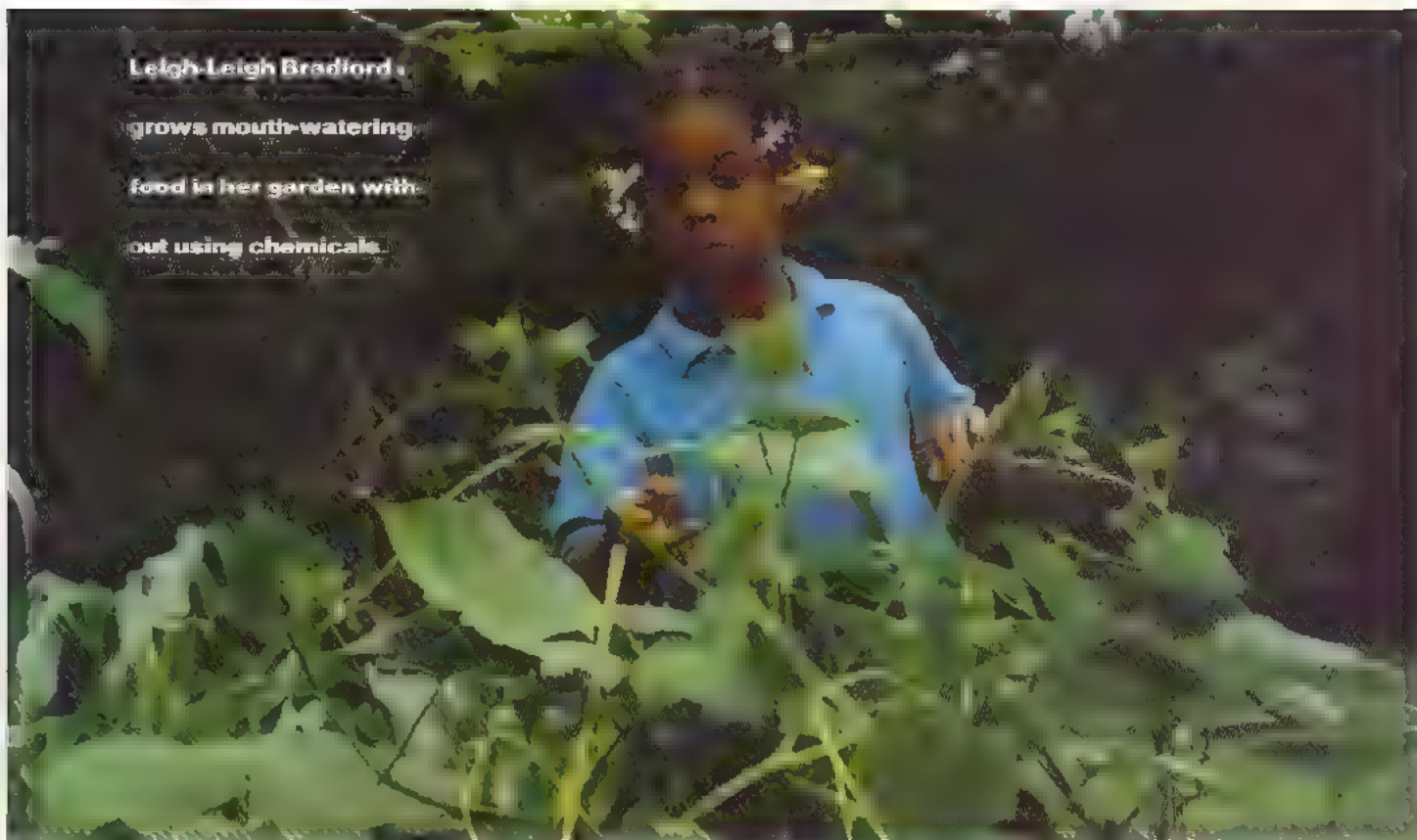
Ron Davis is a plant pathologist (a pathologist is a scientist who studies disease) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He explains why chemicals called pesticides are important. "Pesticides play a major role in controlling pests—insects, plant diseases and weeds. We need these chemicals to be able to grow a large variety of foods at an affordable price. It's a noble goal to want to grow crops on a large scale without pesticides—but it's just not possible."

Organic food experts argue that the money saved by using pesticides is not worth the damage being done to the environment. Some pesticides, like DDT, were outlawed because scientists discovered that they were harmful to human health and bad for the environment. Currently, U.S.



ESTICIDES ASIDE

Leigh-Leigh Bradford
grows mouth-watering
food in her garden with-
out using chemicals.



farmers are still using 300 to 400 pesticides. "There are risks in using any pesticide," says Davis, "just like there is a risk in getting a car to go down the road."

But, Davis claims, if farmers stopped using pesticides, the amount of crops that are grown would be reduced. And prices would go way up.

Others think that pesticides are not really that necessary. "Forty to 60 percent of pesticides are used for cosmetic purposes," (in other words, to make food

grow larger and smoother), says Jane Kockersperger. She is with a group that promotes methods of farming without chemicals.

"It would be better to spend the money used on pesticides to educate people to understand that a blemished apple is okay to eat."

You Are What You Eat

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a government



This Florida farmer is spraying a chemical on his corn crop to prevent disease.



organization that sets rules on how much of a chemical can safely be allowed on food. (The EPA assumes that you'll be eating these fruits and vegetables your whole life—at least 70 years. So they take into account the amounts of chemicals that build up in a person over the years.) These rules are very strict.

While the EPA sets limits on chemicals, another U.S. agency, the Food and Drug Administration, checks fruits and vegetables all the time to make sure the chemicals on them are within these limits. Chris Lecos, who works for the FDA, says that

"99 percent of the food we check shows no trace of pesticides, or if it does, it is well below the legally permitted limit."

But pesticides don't just get on the leaves or skin of crops. Organic food experts claim that pesticides have polluted ground waters all around the U.S. This is because the chemicals wash off the plants in the rain and seep into the ground. Here the pesticides come together in greater amounts, making some water unsafe to drink. Sean MacIlhenny of the EPA says his agency knows this is a serious problem and that they

are now checking water, too.

Organic farming really means more than just reducing the amount of chemicals used to grow crops. According to Andy Ferguson of the Organic Foods Production Association of North America, it means using farming practices that are in harmony with nature and that keep the land healthy and productive.





**There are
about 50,000
organic farmers in
the U.S. right now.
This is good news
to Leigh-Leigh
and many other
people.**

For example, for plants to grow well, nitrogen must be in the soil. There are many human-made forms of nitrogen—some liquid, some gas—that are very cheap to buy. But when put into the soil, this artificial nitrogen actually breaks down the dark, rich part of the soil, called humus.

When humus is broken down, the soil falls apart—it drains off with rainfall or blows away in the wind. This is called erosion, and it is devastating to a farm. But nitrogen occurs naturally in manure and compost (piles of cut grass and food garbage that sit for a long time). Natural nitrogen fertilizers do not break down the humus. In fact, they make the soil stronger.

Another simple way to add nutrients to the soil without using chemicals is called “rotating crops.” Ferguson says, “The goal is to plant many different kinds

of crops in a cycle, each with different nutrient needs. The soil becomes richer and richer.”



Going Organic

Still, the idea of not using chemicals at all is scary to many farmers. In 1972, a plant disease killed nearly all corn crops in the southern states. Chemicals can sometimes prevent such widespread diseases.

“By and large, farmers don’t like using chemicals,” Ferguson adds. “They

know chemicals are bad, but they’ve just become dependent on them. There are approximately 50,000 organic farmers in America right now, and they’re doing as well or better than their neighbors who use chemicals. By the end of the decade, 15 to 20 percent of all crops will be grown organically in the United States.”

This is good news to Leigh-Leigh. Because, she says, “Too many pesticides kill plants. And they’re not good for people either.” ♦



GROW YOUR OWN

If you'd like to plant an organic garden this summer, the time to start is now. And if you don't have room to plant a garden in your backyard, you can still grow many vegetables or herbs in flower pots or window boxes. Here's a how-to guide, including a month-by-month calendar to get you started:

CALENDAR

Plan your garden. In what part of your yard will you put it? How big should it be? What plants do you want? Make a garden map of how you'd like it to look.

Time to buy seeds. You should also buy fertilizers and the tools you'll need, such as a shovel, hoe and rake.

APRIL-MAY

Get the garden ready. Dig up the dirt, take out the big rocks and spread fertilizer all over the topsoil. Check your seed packages and follow the directions. Depending on where you live, some seeds should be planted in April, some in May. Make neat rows with a hoe. After you've planted the seeds, make sure you weed the garden and water the seeds regularly.

JUNE-JULY AUGUST

Watch your plants grow and start picking the vegetables. The rewards are worth the work—lots of pretty flowers and healthy vegetables you can eat on the spot—after they're washed, of course!



Don't worry about weeds. In fact, weeds are good for holding soil in place. If you have too many, get rid of them by pulling them out of the ground with your hands.

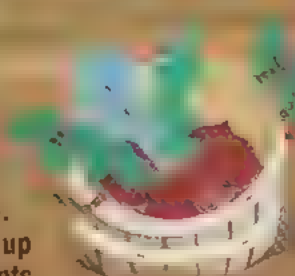
GARDEN!

TIP:

Fertilizers can be added to the soil to make it richer. One kind of natural fertilizer is compost—dead leaves, cut grass, food scraps. These things contain nutrients perfect for growing plants. Or you can buy ground-up bones from a nursery (a store that sells plants and trees).



* Insects, like the ladybug and the praying mantis, are helpful to have in the garden. They eat the insects that eat up your plants. Also, if your plants are strong and healthy they will be able to resist bugs on their own.



AUTO CARS OF THE A PILOTS



Moller's M200,
one of three
models he has
designed, is a flying
car built for two.

You're stuck in a traffic jam. Cars are honking, and you're going nowhere fast. Instead of sitting there, getting angry, you press a button on your dashboard. Suddenly, your car rises in the air and soars up over all the other cars—then flies quickly home!

Is this for real? Not yet. But it may soon come true. Three American inventors have designed "flying cars"—and they all say that, some day, everyone will be driving them.



It's A Bird, It's A Plane...

In Davis, CA, aeronautics engineer Dr. Paul Moller has developed the Moller 400. He likes to call it "an aircraft that can also be driven on the ground." The four-passenger vehicle works like a combination plane, helicopter and car. Moving at more than 125 miles an hour, it acts like an airplane. It has four

fan-like engines so it can take off, hover and land vertically, like a helicopter. Driven on the ground, it becomes more like a normal auto—getting 17 miles of diesel gas to the gallon.

Meantime, in Seattle, WA, aeronautics engineer Fred Barker has also created a flying car. His Sky Commuter is about the size of a compact car. And like the M 400, it doesn't have wings, but takes off and flies like a helicopter. "The Sky Commuter is lifted vertically by the

FUTURE MAY TAKE THE HIGH ROAD

By Michael Rozek



Moller hovers in his M200X, which is hooked up to a crane for safety reasons.

thrust of three very fast fans," Barker explained to CONTACT. "And it is pushed forward by a fourth fan. We figure it will cruise at about 100 mph, and eventually will run on ethanol, methanol or hydrogen fuel." Right now, the car uses gasoline.

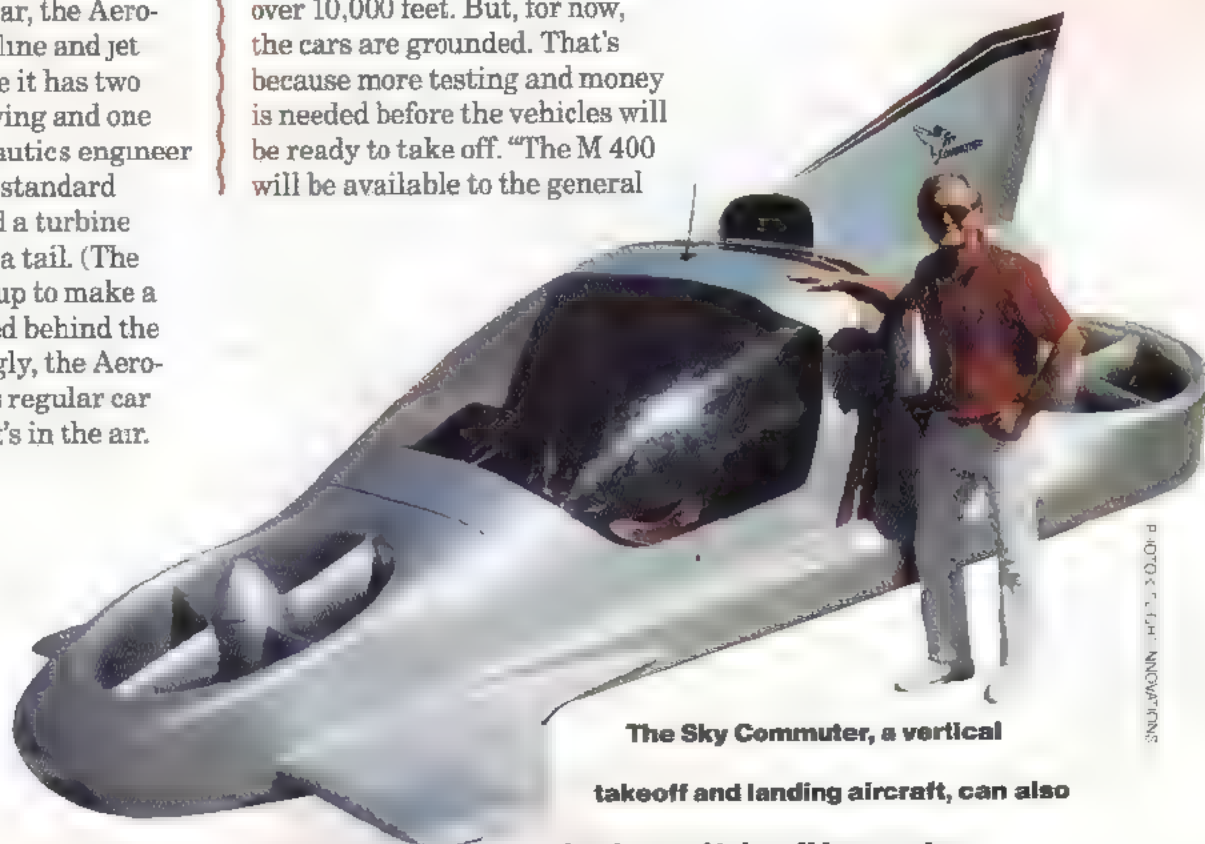
Another flying car, the Aerocar, uses both gasoline and jet fuel. That's because it has two engines: one for flying and one for driving. Aeronautics engineer Molt Taylor took a standard Honda CRX, added a turbine engine, wings and a tail. (The 34-foot wings fold up to make a trailer that's hauled behind the car.) More amazingly, the Aerocar uses most of its regular car equipment when it's in the air.

"The same controls fly and drive it," explains Taylor. "For example, there are rubber pedals that lie on the floor when you drive and come into position when you're ready to fly."

The Aerocar, Sky Commuter and M 400 can reach altitudes of over 10,000 feet. But, for now, the cars are grounded. That's because more testing and money is needed before the vehicles will be ready to take off. "The M 400 will be available to the general

public in three to five years," claims Jack Allison, a spokesperson from Moller's company. In less than two years, Barker hopes to start making the Sky Commuter.

Taylor, on the other hand, is



The Sky Commuter, a vertical takeoff and landing aircraft, can also land on and take off from water.

PHOTO: JEFFREY MANNING

isn't sure yet when Aerocars will hit the road—or the skies. But, he told CONTACT, “a private company in China wants to begin manufacturing them soon.”



The Sky's the Limit

Even though the future of flying cars is up in the air, the inventors believe their cars will become everyday transportation someday. And already, the FAA, the government agency that regulates air travel in the United States, has created a new category for the vehicle, called “powered light aircraft.”

Some aviation experts predict that flying cars will eventually be controlled by on-board computers, to reduce the chances of accidents in the sky. Dr. John Zuk, an official at NASA's Ames Research Center, says it's possi-

ble that cars could run on electronic “highways” in the sky and receive air traffic control instructions from satellites overhead.

But other experts aren't so sure whether this could work. “If computers control everything,” says FAA air traffic control specialist Joseph Athenas, “you need a system where the machine never makes a mistake. These computers would have to be foolproof to keep the vehicles apart and avoid accidents. And think of air traffic patterns. How is anyone going to control rush hour traffic for thousands or even millions of flying cars?”

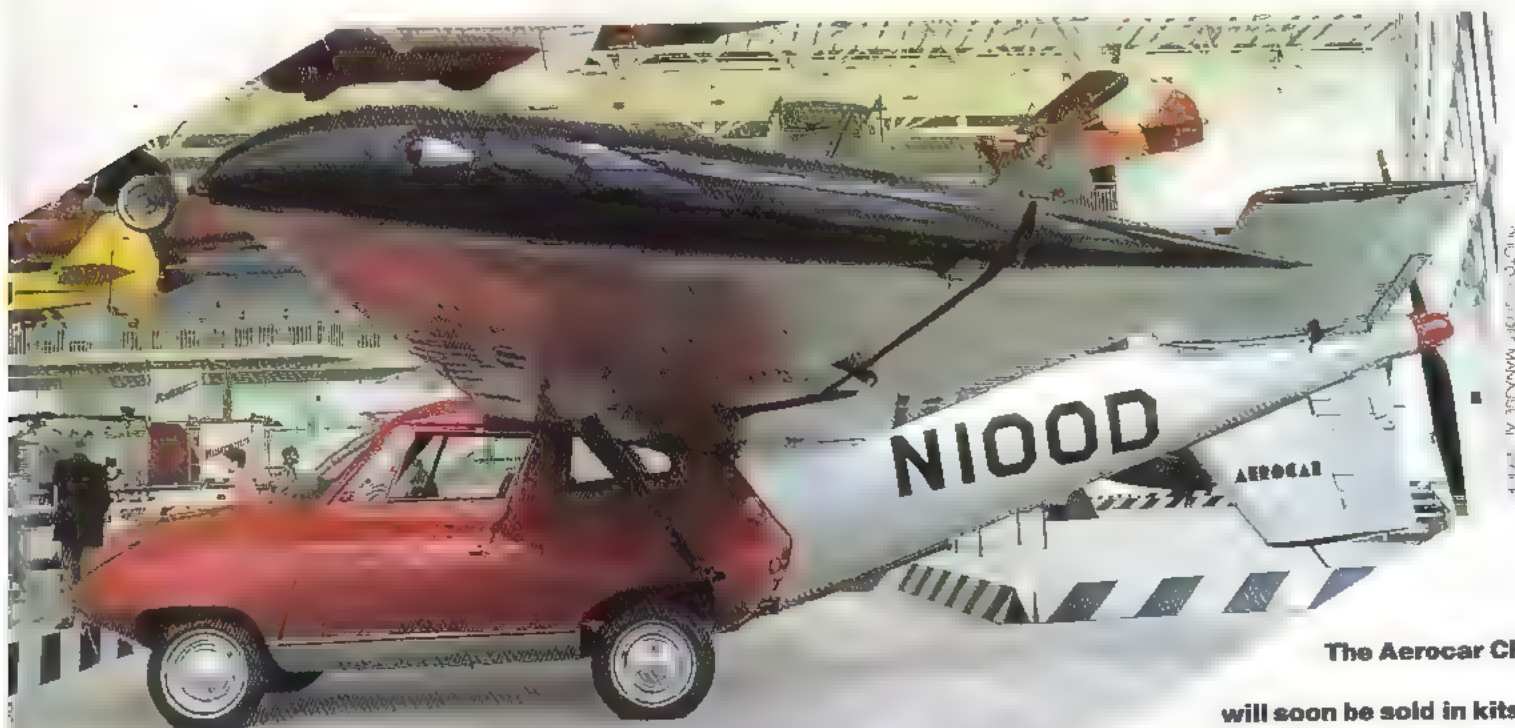
John Dow, a FAA aerospace engineer, also thinks safety is a big issue. “Any damage to the car—even a parking lot scrape—must be fixed immediately,” he warns. “Otherwise flying might be dangerous.” And, Dow adds, in order to meet flight requirements, an aircraft has to be

maintained by a licensed airplane mechanic.

Even so, Athenas says flying cars would be great for rural areas. “I could see someone tooling down highway I-70 with 60 miles to go, push off ground and ignore speed limits in the air,” he told CONTACT. “I don't see it working now, but, who would have thought 20 years ago that so many people would use computers?”

John Vostrez, who is with the California Department of Transportation, believes there is a future for flying cars. “These cars,” he explains, “could be an advantage for all of us. Their speed would make them perfect for long-distance commuting.

“Above us there is additional space we can use for transportation. We're running out of ground space—our highways are becoming too crowded. We have the technology to put cars in the air. It's time to make the move.” ♦



The Aerocar CRX

will soon be sold in kits

to “do-it-yourself” pilots.

HEY DUDES!
IT'S NEW, IT'S COOL!

A NEW FRUIT DRINK
WITH PACIFIC COOL
AND CALIFORNIA
STYLE



REVIEWS

by Rhetta Aleong and Russell Ginns

B O O K S

Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic

by Mark Wilson

Running Press, \$24.98

When you pick up this 472-page book, you're in the hands of a master magician. Follow step-by-step instructions to make knots disappear, handkerchiefs dance and much more. Best of all, this book comes with a box of tricks to start you off.

Fun With Hieroglyphs

by Catherine Roehrig

Viking Books, \$19.95

Did you ever wonder what all those drawings inside pyramids meant? What were the ancient Egyptians saying? This book will help you answer those questions—and more.

Understanding hieroglyphics is like learning a whole different language. And you'll also be able to send secret messages, and write names and codes with the 24 hieroglyphic rubber stamps in this kit.



Balloon Science

by Etta Kaner

Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., \$8.95

Take a deep breath! You don't have to be a *balloonatic* to enjoy this book, since there's something in it for everyone.

There are lots of great experiments for you to try, science mysteries for you to unravel and rib tickling riddles to make you guffaw. All that, plus your own pack of balloons. Ready, set, blow!



Who Stole The Wizard of Oz?

by Avi

A Bullseye Book, \$2.95

A stolen library book? So what's the big deal? Well, it is a big deal if it turns out to be a very valuable one and you're accused of stealing it.

Follow Toby and Becky as they dig deeper and deeper into the mystery, tracking down the secret of the missing book.

S O F T W A R E

Moonwalker

For Genesis game systems

Sega, \$39.95

You're surrounded by muggers, monsters and meanies. What should you do? Dance!

Control Michael Jackson, as he jumps and spins his way through graveyards, dance halls and caverns to rescue children from the evil mastermind, Mr. Big.

Sounds silly, you say? It is. But great graphics and music make *Moonwalker* a lot of fun.

Sim Earth

For IBM and Macintosh

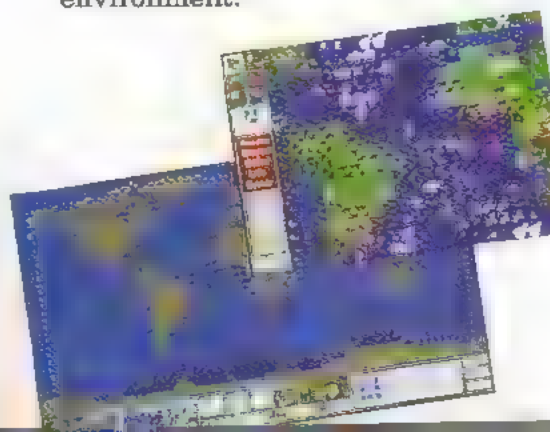
computers

Maxis, \$54.95

This incredible program puts you in charge of an entire planet!

It's up to you to adjust the contents of the atmosphere and the heat of the planet's core. If you manage your planet properly, intelligent life forms, like dolphins and humans, will show up.

You'll probably want a grown-up to help you get started. But it's challenging, fun, and it will teach you a lot about the environment.



THE TIME TEAM

MAMMOTH TROUBLE

By Curtis Slepian

"You're such a wimp, Sean!"

Jenny Lopez was talking to Sean Nolan, who was gasping for air. Jenny's father had paid Sean to clear the snow from his driveway. After 10 minutes, Sean was tired.

Jenny said, "The next time I travel through time, I'm going by myself—who needs you?"

"You couldn't survive without me," said Sean, shoveling more snow. "Girls aren't tough enough to make it by themselves."

Jenny glared. "We're just as tough as boys—probably tougher. I think I *will* go on a trip alone."

Jenny stuck out her chin defiantly and marched inside her house to get her tachyon machine. Sean and Jenny had always traveled in time together—because they were the only ones who knew the machine existed. It was a secret neither teen would ever tell anyone.

Sean dropped his shovel and followed Jenny. He flung off his jacket and ran upstairs to Jenny's room. As he opened the door, Jenny, standing just inside it, pressed the button to start the machine!

Instantly, the teens found themselves next to a beautiful lake surrounded by a thick green forest. In the distance was a glittering white mountain range. The peacefulness of the scene was broken when Jenny said to Sean, "Who asked you to come along?"

"You should thank me. If you were by yourself, you'd be in deep trouble here...wherever here is."

The Big Chill

Jenny waved her hand angrily and walked toward the lake. Standing at its edge, she frowned: "Look at this."



Sean came over. Hundreds of animal footprints had been made in the soft, wet ground. "Some of these are gigantic," said Jenny.

"Who cares about footprints? We'd better find a town soon, because it's pretty cold here," said Sean, blowing on his hands. His breath came out in white clouds.

"Strange," said Jenny. "The sun is high in the sky, so it must be summer. But it's cold."

"It figures you'd go on a trip and not take the right clothes. How amazingly dumb."

"I don't see you dressed for winter, Mr. Genius. Let's keep moving to stay warm."

The kids started hiking around the lake and towards the white mountains. But before long, they realized they weren't mountains—they were the front part of an endless wall of ice!

"Sean, that's a glacier."

"A what?"

"A glacier. It's a frozen river that has slowly moved south from the North Pole. They covered much of the Earth during the Ice Age."

Suddenly, they heard a trumpeting noise. Then, the sound of trees and brush breaking. Twenty yards away was an enormous hairy elephant with huge curved tusks. And it was charging right at Sean and Jenny!

"Yowwwwwww!!!"

Screaming, both teens sprinted into the forest. Their faces were whipped by branches, but they didn't stop running for a long time. Finally, they



they looked back. No elephant. They dropped to the ground, panting.

"That elephant was no elephant," said Jenny. "It was a woolly mammoth."

"So?"

"Woolly mammoths lived 50,000 years ago!"

Sean couldn't believe it. "You mean we're in prehistoric times?"

Before Jenny could reply, a deep growling sound came from behind a large rock. The teens began to back away slowly. The top of a catlike head rose above the rock. Then more and more of the animal appeared. When they saw its daggerlike teeth, they knew it was a saber-toothed tiger! "Does that answer your question?" whispered Jenny. The teens started running again, splashing wildly across a stream. The tiger padded up to the stream, roared at the disappearing teens and returned to its lair to finish its lunch.

When they finally stopped running, Sean said, "The sun is going to set soon and our feet are wet. We'll freeze if we don't get out of here. Beam us home, Captain."

Stranded!

Jenny reached into her pocket for the tachyon machine. It wasn't there. She searched her other pockets. "I must have dropped it while we were running!"

They frantically tried to retrace their steps but became totally lost. "What are we going to do now?" said Sean, his face pale.

They were stranded thousands of years in the past, without food and shelter, and surrounded by

monstrous creatures. Jenny began to cry. Sean didn't like to cry in front of girls — especially Jenny — but he couldn't stop his tears. After a few minutes, Jenny wiped her eyes. "We'd

better pull ourselves together."

"Yeah," said Sean, pretending he wasn't scared. "Let's find shelter, or we won't survive the night."

The teens walked quickly and fearfully. Eventually they arrived at the entrance to a long valley. Sean shouted: "A cave in the side of the hill!" It was getting dark, and a sharp wind began to blow. But in the cave, the air was still.

Neither teen slept much during the night. The cold made them shiver. Plus, they kept thinking they saw something move outside the cave.

The next morning Jenny said, "If this is summer, what's winter going to be like?"

"We need fire."

"And food."

First, they looked for something to eat. After hours of hiking, Sean spotted a berry bush. The black berries were delicious. They also picked up nuts from the ground.

"How are we going to carry this stuff back to the cave?" asked Sean. Jenny thought for a moment, then pulled up the thin branches of bushes, and scrunched them into the shape of a bowl. At the bottom of it she placed large leaves, so the berries and nuts wouldn't fall through.

"Wow, we're living off the land," said Sean excitedly. He pulled up some green stalks that looked like onions. "This stuff smells pretty good. I'm going to have a bite."

"Be careful," warned Jenny. "A lot of plants are dangerous to eat."

"Now who's the wimp?" said Sean, chewing.

A half hour later, Sean had the worst stomachache of his life. Jenny waited until most of his pain had passed before saying, "I told you so."

While the teens continued to search for food, they passed a rat the size of a muskrat, a muskrat the size of a deer, and a deer the size of a horse. They also saw animals unlike any they had ever seen. Most were covered in fur and had big teeth. Both teens were tense — what would they run into next? Every time the underbrush crackled, they jumped. "I think some animal is stalking us," Jenny said nervously.

Around noon, they returned to the cave. It was time to make a fire. Sean was never a Boy Scout, but he knew that if you hit two pieces of flint together, they made sparks. The trouble was, he didn't know what flint looked like. So he spent the



day banging together every rock he could find. Not a single spark flew from any.

Quest for Fire

Sean and Jenny worried about spending another icy night. "Why I trust you to build a fire is totally mysterious," said Jenny.

"That's it!" yelled Sean. He jumped up, took off his wristwatch and pried off the glass cover. While Jenny looked on astonished, he did the same thing to her wristwatch. He then ran to a nearby lake and came back a minute later with one of the curved glass covers filled with water.

"I read about how to do this in *The Mysterious Island*, a neat novel by Jules Verne," said Sean. When he placed one glass cover on top of the cover filled with water, they formed a magnifying lens. He took a piece of paper out of his pocket and placed it in the sun. He held the lens so it focused the sunlight on the paper, and soon it started burning. They had a fire!

That night, the kids huddled in front of the flames. "This solves one of our problems," said Jenny. "But when winter comes, we're going to need heavy clothes. And food besides berries: They don't grow in cold weather."

Both kids became silent. It was bad enough that they would never again see another human being — they also had to figure out how to live!

"I guess I'll have to hunt animals for their fur and meat," said Sean.

"The only animal you've ever hunted was in a video game. Besides, to make weapons we have to make tools and...did you just hear something?"

"You're paranoid, Jenny."

"Listen." From outside the cave came a crashing sound. Both kids stood up. In the flickering light they saw a huge shape rise up at the cave's entrance. It was a bear. Not just any bear, but the biggest bear that ever walked the Earth. It was 10 feet high, with giant teeth and claws that could probably cut through steel. Its roar shook the cave. The bear blocked the entrance, so the kids scrambled to the back. Sean threw a stone at the monster, but it bounced off like popcorn.

As the bear wriggled into the cave, Sean said, "I guess this is goodbye, Jenny." The two teens closed their eyes and held each other's hand and waited for the end. Suddenly, the roar of the bear turned into a howling cry.

It wheeled around. From its back stuck out a long shaft. The bear howled in pain again, and the kids saw, from the side of the cave entrance, another spear, with a sharpened stone at its end,



jab at the bear.

The bear waved its huge paw at the spear, cried in anger at its wounds, then bounded off into the night. The kids slowly came up to the entrance and saw...a man!

He was not exactly like a 20th-century man, though. Above his eyes was a thick ridge of bone, and his jaws and teeth were very large. The short, powerful-looking man wore animal skins.

"A cave man!" whispered Sean.

"Probably a Neanderthal," said Jenny.

The man stared at them in curiosity, then gently touched the teens' clothes and grunted. In the flickering light it looked as though he were smiling, but they couldn't be sure. With another grunt, he turned and walked away.

"Wow!" said Sean. "Our ancestor saved our lives. What a great guy!"

Jenny murmured, "I wonder if he was the creature I thought was following us."

"Hey, look at this!" cried Sean gleefully.

On the ground just outside the cave was the tachyon machine!

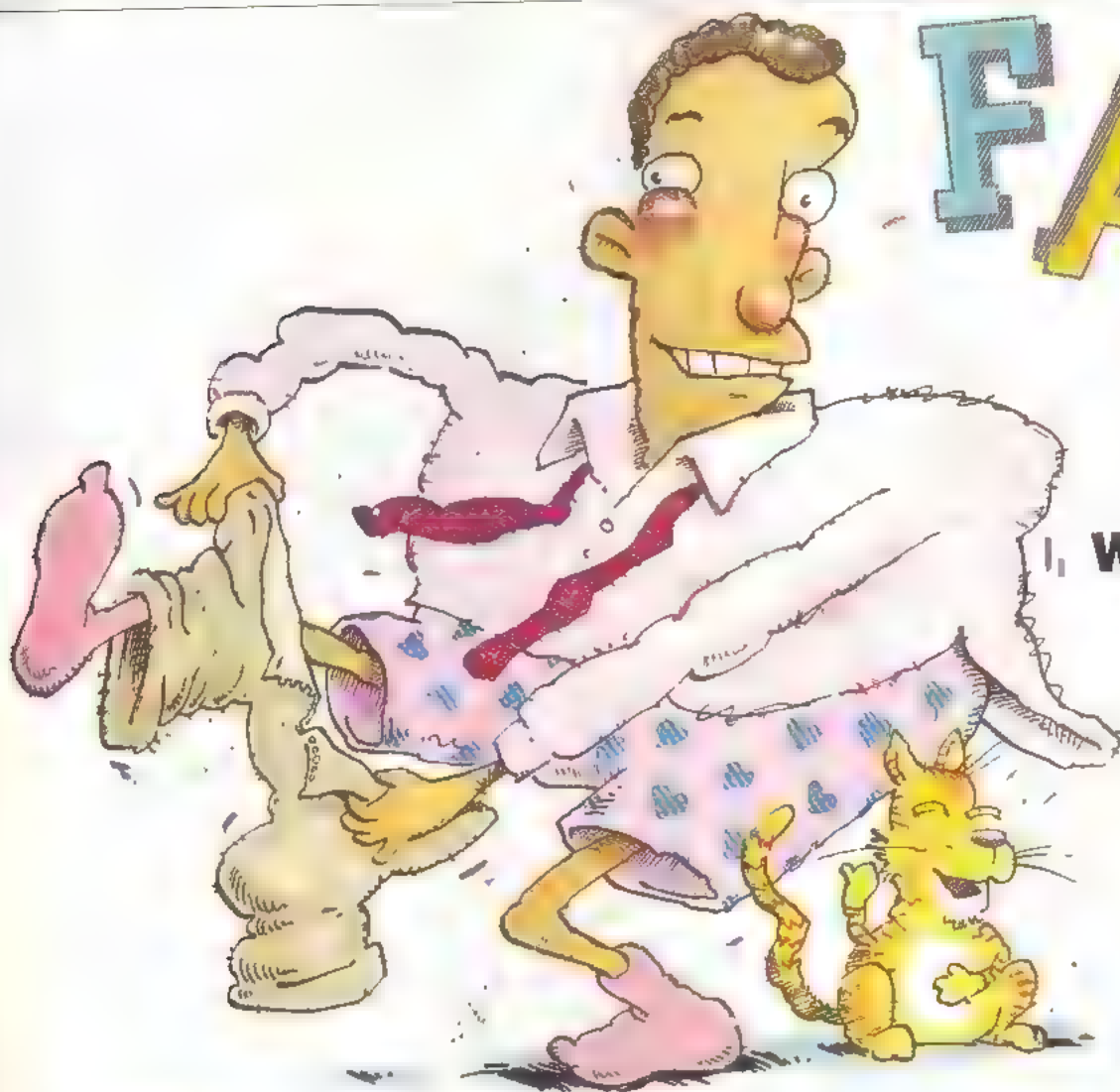
"The cave man must have found it and left it there," said Jenny. "Do you think he returned it to us on purpose? Or did he just drop it accidentally while fighting the bear?"

"I don't know," answered Sean. "But I do know that we don't belong in his world. Let's go home."

Jenny hit the button on the tachyon machine, and an instant later, the two kids were back in her warm house. Jenny looked at Sean and said, "I guess you were right: I couldn't have made it without you."

Sean shook his head. "We couldn't have made it without each other." ♦

FACT



While getting dressed, 58% of Americans put their right leg into their pants first.

Bananas are the most popular fruit in the world. People eat more of them than any other fruit.



A single bee would have to make more than 3,000 nectar-carrying trips to make one ounce of honey.



OLDS

There are 193 different kinds of apes and monkeys.



Slugs have four noses.



If you threw a baseball at a speed of 18,000 mph, it could travel around the world and hit you on the back of the head.





ONE CRAFTY
R

U

DON'T LET BRAIN TEASERS DRIVE YOU CRAZY. TRY OUR

SQUARE



Line Drive ◀

Can you draw a line dividing these cars into two groups? Easy? Well here's the catch: The sum of the numbers on the cars must be the same for each group.



Brain Lane ▲

Study the series of cars carefully. Can you guess which of the three cars in the circle should go next?

Z

Z

L

E

S



Gridlock ▲

Find a path from the black van to the blue van. You can move up, down, left or right, but you *can't* move diagonally. Your path can contain only one pickup truck and each car must be a different color.



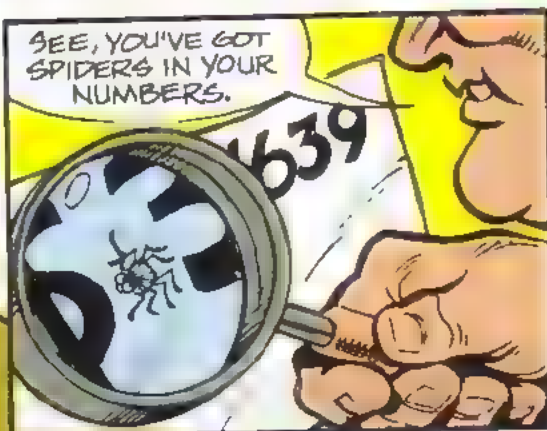
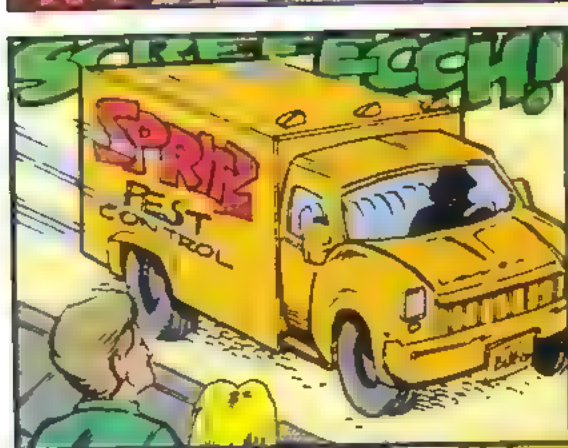
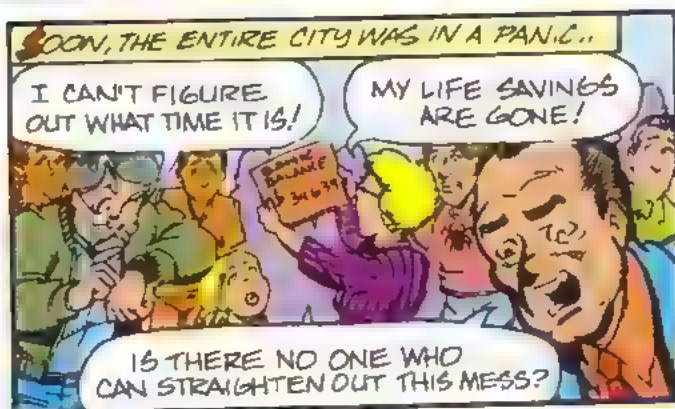
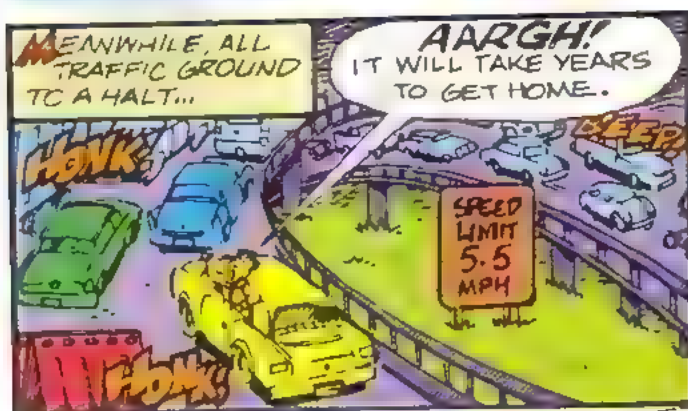
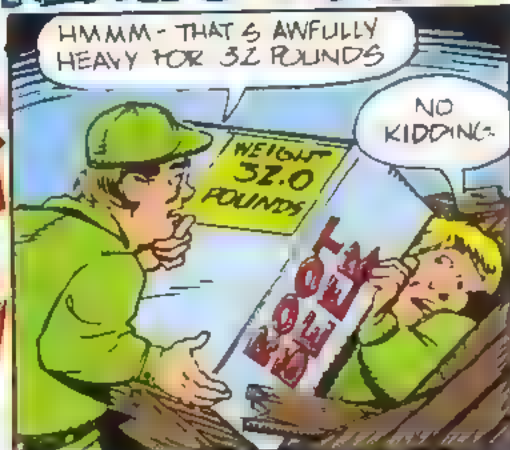
Answers on the Did It page.



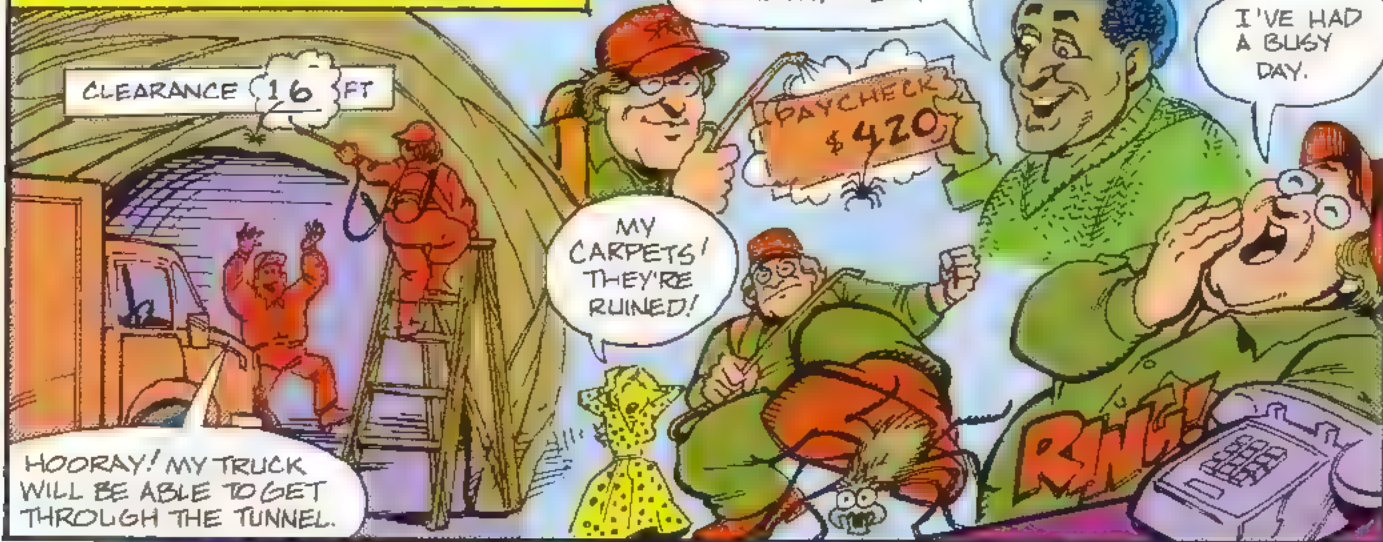
SUBTRACT-NO-PHOBIA

A SQUARE
ONE PUZZLE

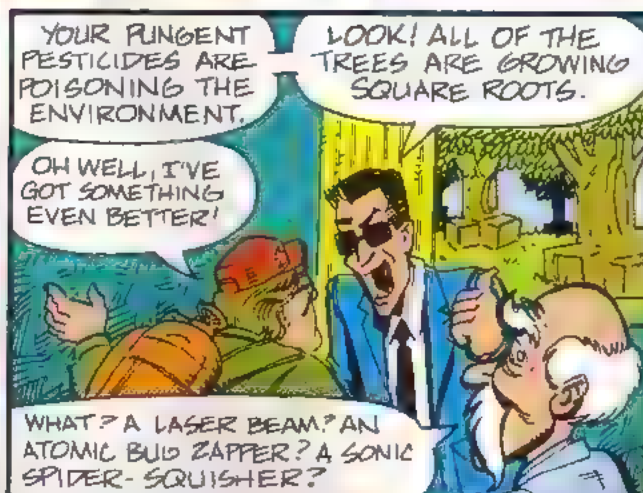
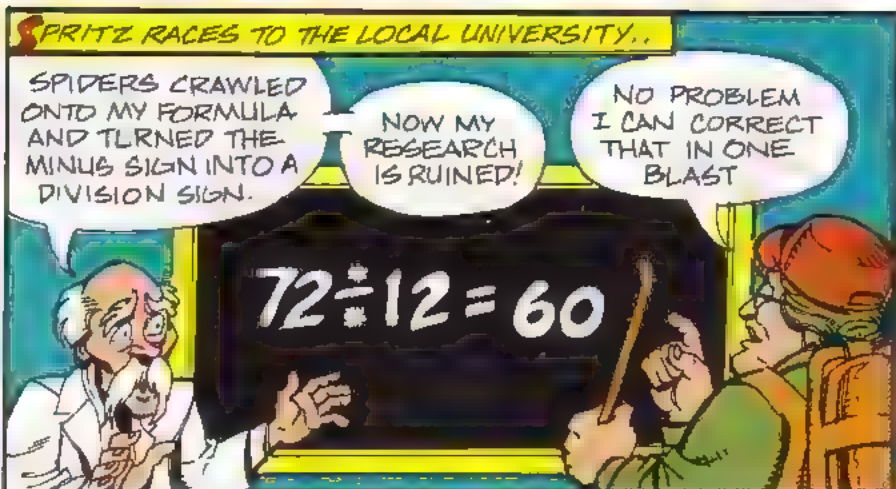
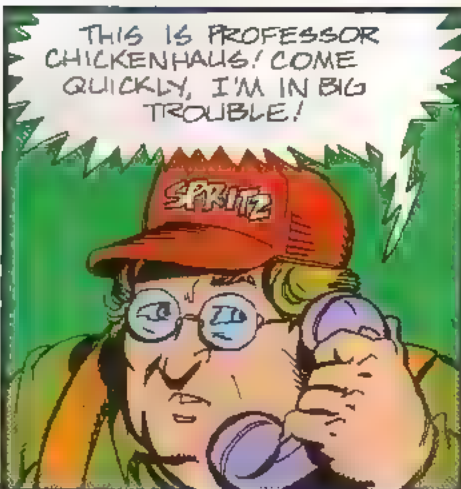
STORY BY RUSSELL GINNS • ART BY KEITH S. WILSON



ALL OVER TOWN, SPRITZ SAVES CITIZENS FROM MATHEMATICAL MAYHEM...



HOORAY! MY TRUCK WILL BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH THE TUNNEL.



CAN YOU ERASE JUST ONE DIGIT FROM THE PROFESSOR'S FORMULA ON THE BLACKBOARD SO IT BECOMES A CORRECT EQUATION? ANSWER ON THE DID IT PAGE

by Russell Ginns

EXTRA

THERE HE GOES!

Mr. Danderwink claims he saw Bigfoot in his petunia patch last night. Now everyone in Sawbuck County is looking for the mysterious monster. Can you be the first person to spot the hairy beast?

Start in the top left corner of this map and move three spaces to the right. Whenever you land on a new square, follow the numbered arrows and move that many spaces in a straight line. It may take you a while to find it, but one path leads right to the giant humanoid creature.

Answer on the Did It page.



SECRET GARDEN

Farmer Lee was so excited to talk about his new organic garden that he forgot to mention what he planted. But if you look carefully, you'll find the name of a fruit or vegetable hidden in each of Farmer Lee's five sentences.

We circled the first one for you. The answers are growing on the Did It page, without the use of any pesticides.

"PLACE THAT
DELICIOUS FRUIT
IN MY LAP PLEASE,"
SAID MY
BROTHER TOM.

I PICKED UP THE
JUICY RED BALL AND
HANDED IT TO
TOM AT ONCE.

SINCE IT WAS
LATE IN THE
AFTERNOON, I ONLY
HAD TIME TO WEED
ONE MORE ROW.

THEN I WENT
TO LOOK FOR
SOME LONG GREEN
VEGETABLES TO
COOK FOR DINNER.

I FOUND THEM IN
THE BACK SEAT OF
MY CAR, ROTTING
IN THE SUN.



GALAPA • GOES WILD

We've jumbled the names of six animals from the Galapagos Islands. Can you unscramble them? Check back to the story in this issue for help.

Scramble to the Did It page for the answer.

LUBE-DOFTEO YOBOB

CHIFN

ALTROSBSA

ORTOISET

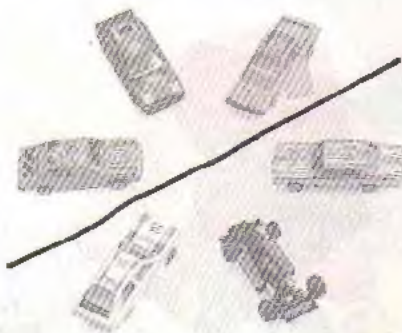
ASE ILNO

UANGAI



Did it

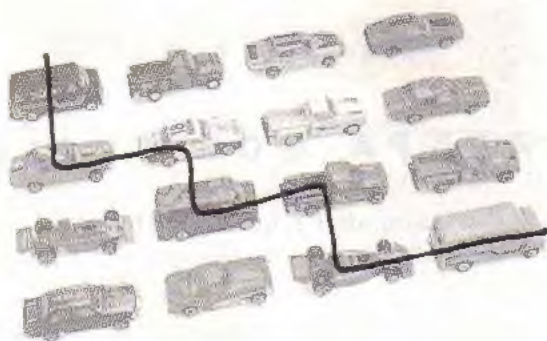
LINE DRIVE



BRAIN LANE



GRIDLOCK



THERE HE GOES!



SUBTRACT-NO-PHOBIA

Erase the zero. The equation will become $72 \div 12 = 6$

SECRET GARDEN

AFTERNOON, I ONLY

SOME LONG

TOM AT ONCE

CAR, ROTTING

GALAPA-GOES WILD

FINCH
SEA LION
BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY

ALBATROSS
TORTOISE
IGUANA

NEXT MONTH

A special issue about the environment will be coming your way in April 1991. Here's a look ahead at what you'll find:

AIR, LAND AND WATER

The problems facing Planet Earth are huge. CONTACT lays out the issues and lets you know what's being done to help keep our world safe, clean and green.

KIDS FIGHT BACK

All across the U.S., kids are getting together to help clean up their surroundings. And their work is paying off! Find out what kids your age are doing to improve the environment—and what you can do to help.

NEW ENERGY

Scientists are looking for new, cleaner and cheaper ways to power factories, machines, homes and cars. This feature will give you a look at some of the energy sources that you may be using in the future.

PLUS

THE TIME TEAM

PUZZLES, GAMES, FACTOIDS

AND MORE!

JOIN THE CHASE

Join Scrooge McDuck on his greatest challenge ever! You can help him discover the legendary Five Lost Treasures and become the "Richest Duck in the World!"

Team up with the entire DUCKTALES gang and get ready to search...

- The Treacherous Amazon Jungle
- The Snowy-peaked Himalayas
 - African Diamond Mines
 - Darkest Transylvania
 - And even the moon!

Are you "Duck" enough to join them on their adventure? Come along to Duckburg headquarters and see for yourself!



This Disney DUCKTALES game is brought to you exclusively by:

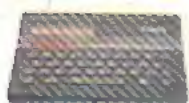


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Nintendo "Game Boy"
SELL 55 ITEMS



Franklin Spell Checker
SELL 24 ITEMS



Vallera Skateboard
SELL 21 ITEMS



Playtime Sound Machine
SELL 18 ITEMS



Sevylor Snow N' Surf Tube
SELL 7 ITEMS



The Aqua Tank
SELL 11 ITEMS



CBS CD's and Cassettes
SELL 7 ITEMS



Super Mario Bros. Pinball
SELL 19 ITEMS



Wilson Tennis Set
SELL 11 ITEMS



Beat Sound Electronic Drum
SELL 11 ITEMS



Coke Phone
SELL 11 ITEMS



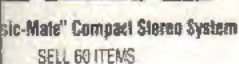
Tesco Microscope Lab
SELL 14 ITEMS



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Game
SELL 9 ITEMS



Acclaim "Nintendo" Double-Player
SELL 21 ITEMS



Music-Mate Compact Stereo System
SELL 60 ITEMS



Timex "Aerobix" Watch
SELL 11 ITEMS



Monarch Fashion Roll Bag
SELL 7 ITEMS



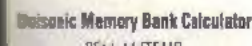
"Older Tyne" Gumball
SELL 12 ITEMS



Brown Calligraphy Marker Set
SELL 7 ITEMS



"Wiz" Personal Locker
SELL 12 ITEMS



Rose Art Deluxe Art Caddy
SELL 8 ITEMS



New Kids On The Block Bag
SELL 10 ITEMS

ALL THIS— AND CASH, Too!

Hey—it's for real! Just join the **Olympic Sales Club!** Here's the deal: you sell our products to your family, friends, and neighbors, and you earn **outrageous prizes or big bucks**—or **both**—all by yourself!

We'll give you **two dollars** for every item you sell—no other sales club offers more!

All you have to do is call our toll free number **1-800-777-8907**.

You'll get **totally free**—a complete sales kit, including an **awesome prize catalog** packed with neat stuff just for you, and a bunch of **hot tips** on how to pump your sales to the max!

Sounds too good to be true? Well, **even the call is free**—so grab the phone **right now** and find out! **Call now!**

1-800-777-8907

Just ask for Barb!



Olympic Sales Club, Inc.
Dept. 91CT3
Enfield, CT 06082

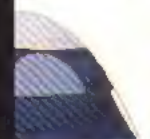
Sell for Club O,
and watch your cash
pile grow!



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Sleeping Bag
SELL 15 ITEMS



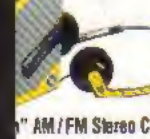
Can Gladiators Game
SELL 10 ITEMS



Two-Person Game Tent
SELL 19 ITEMS



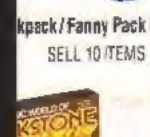
Estes Rocket Kit
SELL 11 ITEMS



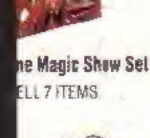
AM/FM Stereo Cassette
SELL 21 ITEMS



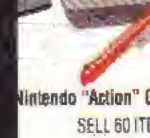
Backpack/Fanny Pack Combo
SELL 10 ITEMS



Tiger "Bo Jackson" Football and Baseball
SELL 15 ITEMS



Magie Show Set
SELL 7 ITEMS



Nintendo "Action" Game System
SELL 60 ITEMS



Columbia "Mountain Sports" Bike
SELL 60 ITEMS



Mikko "Turbo Warrior" R/C Car
SELL 19 ITEMS



Girl Talk
SELL 19 ITEMS



Wilson "Michael Jordan" Basketball
SELL 9 ITEMS



Arcade Basketball
SELL 14 ITEMS



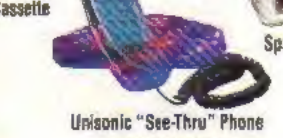
Spartus Clock
SELL 11 ITEMS



Unisonic "See-Thru" Phone
SELL 20 ITEMS



Magnavox Portable CD Player
SELL 85 ITEMS



Intex Two-Person Boat Kit
SELL 15 ITEMS



G.E. Tele
SELL 11 ITEMS